

HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OCTOBER 1, 2004.

The Hamilton County Board of Commissioners met on Friday, October 1, 2004 at 7:30 a.m. at the Hamilton County Highway Department, 1700 S. 10th Street, Noblesville, Indiana. President Dillinger called the meeting to order and declared a quorum present of Commissioner Christine Altman, Commissioner Steven C. Dillinger and Commissioner Steven H. Holt.

Storage Facility Update

Mr. Brad Davis presented an update on the highway storage facility. The original design came in over budget so they deleted the 6' high block apron around the building and one bay was deleted to shorten the building. The estimated cost is \$550,000. There is a sanitary sewer line that cuts through the property. There is no way to avoid it with the building and it will have to be built on top of it. The City of Noblesville does not want us to build on top of the sewer line. If the line needs to be relocated it would be an estimated cost of \$30,000 - \$40,000. The architect will attend the Noblesville Board of Public Works meeting next week to discuss options rather than relocating the line. Possible options are to remove the line, encase in concrete or replace it with iron. We can locate a door on each side of the line for access. The line is 3'-4' deep and serves one building on the south side of the highway facilities. Altman asked if the architect has indicated if it is an issue if we build over the line? Davis stated he does not believe it would be an issue, especially if we replace it with an iron pipe. We don't have a cost estimate on replacing the line. It would be considerably cheaper to replace it in its current alignment than to go around the building. Holt asked how much was saved by removing the 6' of block? Mr. Jim Neal stated approximately \$33,000 with it being painted. If it was not painted it was approximately \$27,000. Holt stated he does not want to take the block off the building. Neal stated they did discuss the block being a bid alternate. With the current estimate it would allow approximately \$40,000 contingency funds. Altman asked how soon can it go out to bid? Davis stated the goal is to have the design finalized and to the commissioners prior to the next meeting. We would request permission to advertise on October 11th with a bid opening at the November 8th meeting. Holt motioned to grant permission to advertise next week with the bid opening on October 25th and bid award November 6th. Altman seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Holt confirmed the bid will include an alternate for the 6' concrete wall and moving the sewer line.

Winter Operations [Tape 1, #200]

Davis stated we have been doing a lot of planning for winter. We gathered information from the highway foremen and Bob Davis and put that information on maps and then analyzed each route to come up with service times. Davis stated the county has 15 trucks, there are 15 routes. We will lose Clay 2 in January. Davis reviewed the routes and service times with the commissioners. Bob Davis has prepared a book with checklists for maintenance and preparation of the trucks for snow, training, etc. Davis stated they are working towards running 24 hours a day with 2-12 hour shifts with breaks at 12:00 noon and midnight. Based on our current routes we are 8 drivers short. To compensate for that they have contacted Beaver Materials for drivers. Davis stated they can also look for additional part-time help and solicit help from school bus drivers. Dillinger asked why do we have a manpower shortage now and not last year? Davis stated we were short manpower last year. Altman asked if we pick up other part-time drivers, would we have a training session with these drivers? Davis stated yes, once we identify the drivers and they are on our payroll, we will have a training session. Bob Davis stated the Safety Risk Manager will be in attendance at the training session. Davis stated they will have one truck available after January 1st, from Clay 2, and one truck is on order which means for a total of 2 extra trucks. Holt stated realistically there will be 1 or 2 trucks sitting in the shop during a heavy snow, planning additional routes is probably not realistic. Discussion of individual routes followed. Holt stated the State and cities purchase their trucks based on snow removal, the county looks at summer road work for truck purchases. Dillinger suggested instead of selling the older trucks, keep them for a back-up vehicle when one of the active trucks are down. Davis stated they have looked at that option. It would be nice to have a reserve fleet, we would perform basic maintenance and when the truck became too expensive to repair we would sell it. Extra trucks could help with hauling during the summer months, which we currently contract out at an approximate cost of \$15,000 per year. If we kept some trucks back it would help decrease summer costs and help in the winter with snow plowing. Dillinger stated this is something we can look at when the COIT issue is resolved. Altman stated she believes we are doing it the right way now.

Davis stated he has spoken to Butler Trucking regarding additional trucks for snow removal. Butler is reluctant to participate. They would like to watch for a winter and see what amount of work they would be getting before they commit. It will cost them \$8,000 to \$10,000 to outfit one of his trucks with a plow. Butler needs some way of payback within a 2-3 year period to justify their participation. Butler does not want to be used as a disaster back-up, he would like to have a more routine situation. They would charge approximately \$110.00 to \$115.00 per hour with driver. Davis stated during the summer on the paving contracts it is \$63.00 per hour. Davis stated if we said we definitely wanted him this year he believes Butler would do it, but we would have to call him routinely to get the hours. Altman stated we would have to have the situation that we would take the truck with so many inches of snow. Holt asked what would be a reasonable amount of snow to add two more trucks on the road? Bob Davis stated 3 ½ to 4 inches, depending on the situation. Holt motioned to explore a contract with Butler Trucking with criteria acceptable to the highway department and Butler. Altman stated she would not limit it to Butler, we can come up with criteria and offer it to Butler and anyone else that has a good safety record. [#671] Altman motioned that highway create a lease package for use of outside trucks with operator. Figure out what the qualifications would be, snow criteria, etc. Commissioners will look at the package and approve it. Holt seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Subdivision Routes

Davis reviewed the subdivision snow removal routes. A lot of homeowner's associations plow their own subdivisions, but we don't know what subdivisions do and don't plow. Davis stated they used the number of pick-up trucks that they know are available to them and set a route for these trucks. We know we have to plow Home Place, Riverwood and a scattering of other subdivisions throughout the county. Davis stated the subdivisions will be secondary service, after we get other primary areas done. This includes the 2 trucks and employees from the surveyor's office. The highway permit inspectors go out in the pick-ups as well as some engineering staff if needed. When the inspector's vehicles come up for replacement we are considering buying pick-ups instead of cars. This will help with snow removal and we are also training them for construction inspection work.

Mailbox Policy [#756]

Davis presented a revised mailbox policy for review and approval. Davis stated our current policy does not have a time frame when the individuals have to get their form back to the highway department. A 60 day time limit has been included. Another change is that our current policy states we will replace a mailbox with a standard post and standard mailbox. We have found out that we don't need to replace both the post and the mailbox in most cases. Our policy did not reflect that. The revised policy makes it and/or post or mailbox, which ever needs to be replaced. Holt

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motioned to approve. Altman seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Fred Swift stated a lot of calls come to the commissioner's office and they are Rubbermaid mailboxes, will they be replaced? Davis stated they will not replace the Rubbermaid mailboxes, but in lieu of replacement they can receive \$65.00.

Crack Sealing [#787]

Davis stated in the past the highway department has contracted crack sealing with F.E. Harding. The last project was \$20,000 for approximately 5 miles. The commissioners have asked if the highway department can do it cheaper than that, which Davis believes they can. Equipment will be needed. There are two types of equipment, a double jacketed boiler which use rubberized blocks that are melted down for the sealant. Davis stated he is not proposing that, the sealant is expensive, the equipment costs approximately \$40,000 and the actual operation is not very forgiving. The other option is using a polymerized emulsion. Equipment costs would be approximately \$10,000 - \$12,000. Altman asked if there is money left in the equipment line item? Davis stated yes. Altman asked if there is money in the budget to equip the new building? Davis stated there is not much to equip other than a good hot water pressure washer. Altman asked if that is included in the cost estimates for the building? Davis stated no. Altman stated let's make sure we buy a pressure washer this year out of this year's money. Holt motioned to proceed with the crack sealing as outlined. Altman seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Davis stated they may look at buying 2 units.

Dead Animals [#878]

Davis stated the county code talks about a dead domestic animal or large undomesticated animal. This issue came up when someone called in and we refused to pick up a dead raccoon. Bob Davis stated we only pick up animals over 40 lbs. Holt stated he received a call from a person on 146th Street who wanted a dead raccoon picked up and she was asked if it was a 40 lb raccoon. She called the highway department and Holt for 3 days and after Holt called the highway department the raccoon was removed. Davis stated the ordinance calls for the highway department or the animal control officer to pick up the animal. Do we have an animal control officer? Altman stated the sheriff's department has one officer that has been trained in animal control, he works one shift. Holt stated the ordinance does not state 40 lbs and that is what he wants to discuss. Dillinger stated if someone takes the time to call, then the highway department should go pick up the animal. Holt seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Davis stated it costs \$70.00 to dispose of a deer. Davis asked if the commissioners have entertained the idea of an incinerator? Holt stated we need to continue to dispose of them the way we are until we get the new humane society building and then there is a freezer out there and they can run by and throw them in the freezer.

Fall Road & 204th Street Small Structure

Neal stated Small Structure #33063 on Fall Road and 204th Street is just south of a reverse turn. To build for a 55 mph design speed adds over \$100,000 to the project for a total of \$298,531. Neal asked if the commissioner want to go with the county standard for design speed which is 55 mph or would you like to entertain something lower? Altman motioned to not take it to the 55 mph design. Holt stated he is not sure we should do it at all. Neal stated this is a safety issue. Altman motioned to do minimal design on pavement, everything. Make it safe but it will not be huge. Neal stated it will not be built to interstate standards. Dillinger seconded. Holt opposed. Motion carried.

Eagletown Road Small Structure Guardrail

Neal stated there is a question on the small structure guardrail on Eagletown Road. The residents do not want galvanized steel rail. We have offered to use Core 10 with wood posts. They said no, they want wood rail like what is on Bridge #255 on Six Points Road. Altman asked how many feet of rail? Mr. Mike McBride stated it is approximately 400 feet. Dillinger asked how much more expensive is it to do the wood rail? McBride stated it is about six times more expensive. Neal stated the residents do not have a problem with the structure being replaced, their main concern is the guardrail and how it is going to look. Estimated cost difference is \$28,000. Neal stated they are going to look at using the ASHTO low volume road standard. We may be able to shorten the guardrail. Holt motioned to table and throw it in Tim's lap for land acquisition process. Altman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Circle Seven Workforce Investment Board:

Dillinger stated Madison County has requested becoming a part of our Circle Seven Workforce Investment Board. Altman motioned to not object to their exploration in becoming part of this entity as long as there is no financial negative for the existing members. Holt seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Holt left the meeting.

116th Street and Clay Center Intersection

Altman stated there was a fatal accident at the 116th Street and Clay Center intersection and that is an annexation area. Do we have any information that we can give to Carmel in regards to traffic counts, etc.? Neal stated we should have some past investigations and we can turn that over to Carmel.

Bridge #242 Gabion Installation

Davis requested permission to advertise for the Gabion Installation for Bridge #242, Sprinstone Road over Bee Camp Creek. Altman motioned to approve. Dillinger seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Dillinger adjourned the meeting.

Present

Christine Altman, Commissioner
Steven C. Dillinger, Commissioner
Steven A. Holt, Commissioner
Robin M. Mills, Auditor
Fred Swift, Administrative Assistant to Commissioners
Brad Davis, Highway Director
Jim Neal, Highway Engineer
Bob Davis, Highway Superintendent
Matt Knight, Highway Staff Engineer
Mike McBride, Small Structure Staff Engineer
Kim Rauch, Administrative Assistant to Auditor

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APPROVED
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ATTEST

Robin M. Mills, Auditor